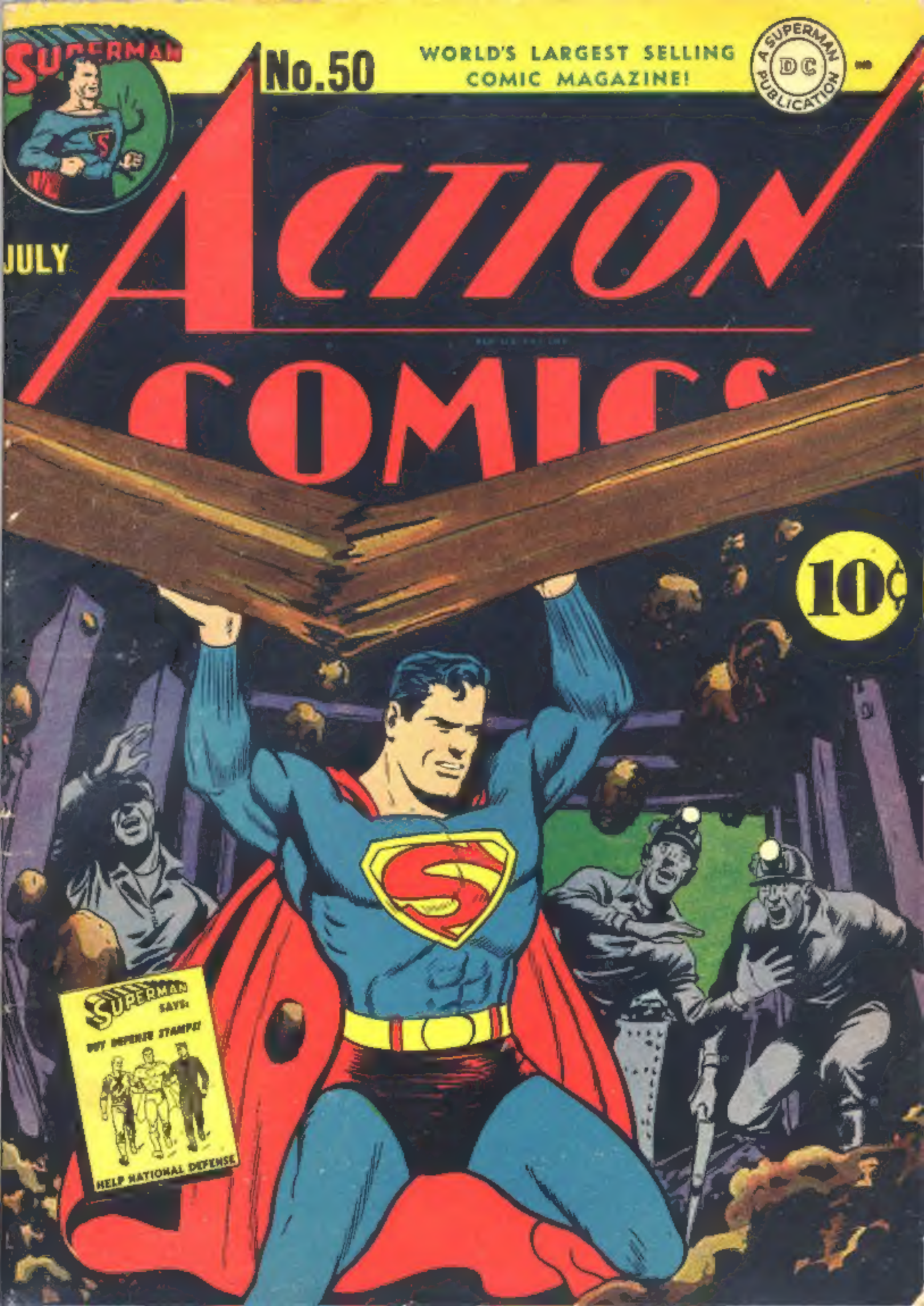
SUPERMAN
No.50
WORLD'S LARGEST SELLING COMIC MAGAZINE!
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
JULY
ACTION COMICS
10¢
SUPERMAN SAYS:
BUY DEFENSE STAMPS!
HELP NATIONAL DEFENSE

THE VIGILANTE
BY ALL MORT MORTON
"HE WAS A SWELL GUY," SAID ONE MAN... "HE WAS A RAT!" SAID ANOTHER ...AND BOTH HAD THE BEST OF REASONS FOR BELIEVING WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT JERRY HARMS ON THE DAY OF HIS FUNERAL! BUT THE VIGILANTE... THAT HARD-FIGHTING LAWMAN WHO PITS WESTERN WITS AND WEAPONS AGAINST THE CUNNING OF BIG TOWN GUNMEN ... HAPPENED TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE CASE... AND IT IS THE VIGILANTE
WHO BRINGS BACK THE TRUE ANSWER IN THIS STRANGE TALE
"THE MAN WHO CAME BACK!"
CRASH
BUY DEFENSE STAMPS AND BONDS
TWO PAIRS OF EYES READ ONE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE...AND SEE TWO SEPARATE MEANINGS IN THE SIMPLE WORDS...
THE HERALD
JERRY HARMS, MURDER
ALDERMAN, BURIED TOD

POOR OLD JERRY... HE WAS A SWELL GUY!
YOU'RE WRONG, STRANGER... JERRY HARMS WAS A RAT!
I WON'T HAVE YOU SAYING THAT ABOUT HIM! JERRY SAVED MY SON FROM PRISON WHEN HE GOT MIXED UP WITH GANGSTERS IN CHINATOWN!
LISTEN, IF WE CAN GO SOMEWHERE FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, I CAN TELL YOU PLENTY ABOUT JERRY HARMS!
GO AHEAD AND TALK... BUT I WARN YOU, YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME!
I THINK I CAN!
HATCH YOUR HATS LOST
TWO STRANGERS AND THE MEMORY OF A COMMON ACQUAINTANCE, NOW DEAD, BETWEEN THEM AND ONE CAN SEE ONLY THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF THE SLAIN MAN. THE OTHER, ONLY THE DARKER... BUT WE ARE LUCKIER, BECAUSE AS WE LISTEN TO THE ELDER MAN'S STRANGE TALE WE CAN FORM A JUDGMENT OF OUR OWN!
IT IS A TALE THAT CARRIES US BACK TO A WARD POLITICIAN'S OFFICE... THE OFFICE OF ALDERMAN JERRY HARMS, IN THE TEEMING HEART OF CHINATOWN...
YES, MR. HARMS, THAT'S THE NAME HE GAVE/ SHALL I SHOW HIM IN?
SPUD CORLISS TO SEE ME? HMM... WONDER WHAT HE WANTS?..ER..YES, MISS FRANK/ SHOW HIM IN/
SPUD CORLISS, BOSS OF THE BIGGEST CRIMINAL GANG IN THE DISTRICT, ENTERS WITH HIS CHIEF LIEUTENANT, LEO SARDI...
TO MAKE IT SHORT AND SWEET, ALDERMAN, ME AND SARDI, HERE, THINK YOU OUGHTA QUIT NEEDLIN' THE COPS TO STOP CRIME IN THE FIRST WARD!
HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING!
WE GOT HERE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT SAYS YOU TOOK DOUGH FOR SWINGIN' A CITY CONTRACT/ SARDI AN' ME GOT THE SIGNATURES OURSERVES... DIDN'T WE, SARDI?
THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS!
IT'S A FORGERY!

FORGERY OR NOT, IT'LL SEND YOU TO PRISON...AND WHERE WILL YOUR POLITICAL CAREER BE THEN?
HE'S RIGHT! IF I DON'T DO AS HE SAYS, I'LL BE FINISHED..
BUT IF I KEEP GOING UP THE LADDER POLITICALLY, I'LL BE BIG ENOUGH TO CRUSH CORLISS AND ALL GANGSTERS LIKE HIM!
ALL RIGHT, CORLISS.. YOU WIN! I'LL LAY OFF YOU!
IF YOU DON'T, IT'LL BE TOO BAD! EH, SARDI?
RIGHT, BOSS!
AND SO, AS MANY ANOTHER AMBITIOUS MAN HAD DONE, JERRY HARMS, WHO SINCERELY WANTED TO BE "THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND," FORGOT HIS CONSCIENCE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS CAREER... AND LET US TAKE A LOOK AT THE RESULT!
CRIME FLARES ALL ACROSS THE CHINATOWN SECTOR AS SPUD CORLISS MAKES THE MOST OF HIS HOLD OVER HARMS...!
WE'RE SURE WIPIN' OUT THE CRIMSON GANG! NOW SPUD WILL RUN EVERYTHING!
STRAY BULLETS ARE WIPIN' OUT INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, TOO! I DON'T LIKE IT!
EVEN YOUNG STUFF, SMALL BUT COURAGEOUS FRIEND OF THE VIGILANTE, IS TOUCHED BY THE SPREADING WEB OF CRIME...
SPUD CORLISS IS LETTIN' ME BE A LOOKOUT FOR HIS STICKUP GANG!
SAY, HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY DAFFY, PETE BLY?
DAFFY, NOTHIN'! WE'RE KNOCKIN' OFF THE WHITE FRONT GAMBLIN' JOINT TONIGHT!
TAKE MY ADVICE AND DON'T DO IT, CHUM! YOU'LL WIND UP PEEKIN' AROUND THE EIGHT BALL!

THE VIGILANTE SAID TO CALL UP IF I GOT A LINE ON THE CORLISS BUSINESS!...I'LL GIVE THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR A BUZZ!
AT THE RADIO STUDIO WHERE ORSO SANDERS, THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR IN REALITY THE VIGILANTE...IS WARBLING COWBOY SONGS...
SORRY, SON ...THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR'S ON THE AIR! BUT YOU CAN LEAVE A MESSAGE!
TELL HIM TO SEND THE VIGILANTE TO THE WHITE FRONT GAMBLIN' HOUSE! THERE'S GONNA BE ...
A HEAVY HAND FALLS ON THE CHINATOWN KID'S SHOULDER, AND HE FACES...
SPUD CORLISS!
SO...PETE BLY SQUEALED TO YOU, AND YOU WERE GOING TO SQUEAL TO THE VIGILANTE!
GONNA BUMP HIM OFF, BOSS?
THEY SAY HE'S REALLY A PAL OF THE VIGILANTE... WE'LL HOLD HIM FOR BAIT!
WHEN THE LAST MELLOW ECHO OF THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR'S VOICE FADES FROM THE AIR-WAVES...
...AND THEN THE CONNECTION BROKE... BUT FIRST I HEARD HIM YELL SPUD CORLISS'S NAME!
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE, PARDNER... RECKON I BETTER TELL THE VIGILANTE RIGHT OFF!
IMAGINE AN IMMITATION COWBOY LIKE HIM KNOWING A REAL TOUGH LAWMAN LIKE THE VIGILANTE!
SANDERS MAY BE A SOFTIE...BUT HE SURE CAN SING THOSE BALLADS OF THE PLAINS!
MINUTES LATER, A SNORTING STEED CARRIES THE TROUBADOUR...IN A NEW ROLE...THROUGH THE DUSK-FILLED STREETS...
COME ON YOU GAS-BURNING BRONC! I'VE GOT A FEELING THE CHINATOWN KID HAS GOT HIM-SELF IN ANOTHER JAM!
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WHILE IN THE CHINATOWN GAMBLING JOINT...
STAND PERFECTLY STILL AND MAYBE WE'LL LET YOU LIVE.
NICE GAME, WITH PLENTY OF BUCKS IN IT!
Suddenly...
SPUD, THE VIGILANTE'S COMIN' 'ROUND THE CORNER THIS WAY!
SHUT UP! WHO YA CALLIN' BY NAME AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
YOUR SLAPPIN' GOT THE VIGILANTE HERE!
GEE, I NEVER THOUGHT SPU...I..I MEAN...
CRACK
H-HHHAAA
THE MINUTE HE COMES THROUGH THAT DOOR, GIVE 'IM EVERY SLUG YA GOT!
WE WON'T MISS!
BUT A HISSING NOOSE WRITHES INTO THE ROOM BEHIND THE WAITING KILLERS...
WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE...
A SPLIT SECOND LATER A HURTLING FIGURE OF VENGEANCE RIDES LIKE A THUNDERBOLT INTO THE ROOM...
YIPPEE! I FEEL LIKE TAKING A HAND IN THIS GAMBLE!
THE VIGILANTE!
IT IS! GET HIM!
5
I LIKE THE COLOR OF YOUR NOSE, BUDDY! ONE ON THE RED!
YIPE!

AND ONE ON THE BLACK WHICH IS THE COLOR YOUR EYE'S GOING TO BE.
TAKE HIM OFFA ME!
BOP
NOW I'LL DEAL YOU A HAND, FRIEND, AND SEE WHO COMES OUT ON TOP!
WHACK
CUT IT OUT, VIGILANTE. I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE!
YOU'LL MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE WHEN I DRAG YOU TO JAIL FOR SHOOTING THIS BOY... AND WHEN YOU HAND OVER YOUNG STUFF, SAFE AND SOUND!
I'LL DO ANY--- ANYTHING YOU SAY!
THE CHINATOWN KID'S OKAY! HE'S OVER AT MY...ER...
OVER WHERE? MAKE IT PRONTO!
BAM
THAT'LL HOLD HIM!
ATTABOY, SARDI! LET'S BEAT IT QUICK!
When the bitter awakening comes...
HEY, WAKE UP, YOU MASQUERADE PARTY FIEND! ...SAY IT'S THE VIGILANTE!
AND THIS IS THE KID THEY SAY ACTED AS LOOKOUT...AND HE'S ALIVE!
6
THAT'S RIGHT...THEY GOT CLEAN AWAY! AND THEY HAVE MORE HIDEOUTS THAN A PUP HAS FLEAS!
AND THEY'VE STILL GOT STUFF!
THE RATS...WOUNDING THAT POOR KID PETE, WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT! I'LL NEVER STOP HUNTING THE GANG THAT DID IT...AND KIDNAPPED STUFF!

NEXT MORNING... AND THERE IS ANOTHER BITTER AWAKENING...
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, ALDERMAN! PETE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD BOY... BUT YOU KNOW HOW CRIME HAS GROWN IN THIS NEIGHBORHOUND!
I KNOW ALL RIGHT, MR. ELY!
I KNOW WHO IS REALLY TO BLAME—AND I'LL SAVE YOUR SON FROM THE PENTENTIARY.
I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!
IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...
THAT'S HOW IT IS, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY... I CONSIDER MYSELF RESPONSIBLE AND I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE IF YOU'LL LET THAT BOY GO!
I'LL LET HIM GO, ALDERMAN! ...BUT I HOPE YOU REALIZE THIS MEANS THE END OF YOUR CAREER!
THE ASTOUNDING CONFESSION OF JERRY HARMS CONTINUES TO ROCK THE CITY! POLICE PREDICT IT WILL END THE MURDEROUS REIGN OF TERROR OF THE SPUD CORLISS GANG FOR GOOD!
AND IN THE ELY HOME...
I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN!
I HOPE YOU WON'T, SON... ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT A VERY FINE MAN SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO SAVE YOU!
TERROR SPREADS TO THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF AN UNDERWORLD CZAR.
WE GOT TO SHUT HARMS UP BEFORE HE SPEAKS HIS PIECE IN COURT! RIGGS, YOU'RE MY OFFICIAL PINEAPPLE TOSSER...
I GET IT, CHIEF!
A SINISTER BUNDLE IS CARRIED INTO THE OFFICE OF THE BROKEN HARMS...
WHO ARE YOU? I GAVE ORDERS NOT TO BE BOTHERED!
I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT, SQUEALER!
AN INSTANT LATER...
A BOMB! BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME...NOT TILL I'VE SENT YOUR WHOLE ROTTEN GANG TO PRISON!
7

AN INSTANT LATER...
BOOM
AND SO THE FUNERAL OF ALDERMAN JERRY HARMS IS HELD THIS DAY WHEN OUR TWO STRANGERS... OR ARE THEY REALLY STRANGERS?... SIT TALKING ABOUT HIM OVER THEIR COFFEE CUPS...
SO YOU SEE, HARMS WAS STILL A RAT WHEN HE DIED! AND WHAT HE DID FOR YOUR SON WAS ONLY TO EASE HIS CONSCIENCE!
I STILL THINK HE WAS A SWELL... BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
BECAUSE... I AM JERRY HARMS!
YOU MUST BE CRAZY! HARMS WAS BLOWN TO BITS BY THAT BOMB!
YOU FORGET, BLY... THERE WERE TWO OF US IN THAT OFFICE! AFTER I GRABBED THE BOMB AND TOSSED IT BACK AT RIGGO... AND DROPPED BEHIND MY DESK... WELL... THEY THOUGHT I WAS THE DEAD ONE!
I SLIPPED OUT, DYED MY MUSTACHE AND BOUGHT THESE GLASSES! I DECIDED TO START LIFE OVER WITH A NEW NAME!
I WON'T GIVE AWAY YOUR SECRET... GOODBYE... AND GOOD LUCK!
BUT WHAT'S THIS? A MAN AT THE NEXT TABLE LOWERS A NEWSPAPER, AND WE SEE...
IT'S THE VIGILANTE!
YES, HARMS... AND I WANT YOU!
I WAS NEARBY WHEN THAT BOMB EXPLODED... I SAW A MAN WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU LEAVE... I FOLLOWED TO MAKE SURE!
BUT GREAT SCOTT... HAVEN'T I HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE?
8

YOU SAVED ONE BOY FROM TROUBLE... AND NOW YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ANOTHER!
SPUD KNOWS THAT YOU'RE ALIVE, BECAUSE RIGGO DIDN'T COME BACK... AND YOU CAN LOCATE HIM!
IT WILL PROBABLY COST ME MY LIFE, BUT I'LL DO IT!
A BOY TO BE SAVED... AND IT'S HIGH TIME WE FOUND OUT HOW THE ROUGH-AND-READY CHINATOWN KID IS FAKING!
BOY, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TILL THE VIG GETS HERE!
WHEN HE DOES, WE WON'T BE LISTENIN' TO YOUR LIP ANYMORE!
DRY UP, YOU TWO, TILL I ANSWER THE PHONE!
RING!
YEAH, SPIKE... YOU SAY YOU GOT HARMS IN TOWN? ...SURE, BRING HIM HERE RIGHT AWAY... BUT ALONE... I'LL FIX THE SQUEALER!
TWO FIGURES, ONE GRIM AND ONE HOPELESS, MOVE FURTIVELY THROUGH THE DUSK-FILLED STREETS...
THE HIDEOUT'S JUST AHEAD, HARMS!
I'LL BE CAREFULL, SPIKE!
THE SAP THINKS HE HAS A CHANCE!
HILE EYES THAT LEARNED THEIR KEENNESS OUT ON THE SAGE-COVERED PLAINS OF THE WEST FOLLOW THEIR PROGRESS...
THE VARMINTS ARE GOING INTO THE CELLAR ENTRANCE OF THAT HOUSE!
STAIRS WEREN'T MADE FOR AN HOMBRE IN AS MUCH OF A HURRY AS I AM!
GIDDIAP, BRONC! IT'S ROUNDUP TIME IN CHINATOWN!
9

A RACE AGAINST DEATH... A SWIFT AND SUDDEN UNDERWORLD DEATH ABOUT TO POUNCE IN A DINGY CELLAR...
SPUD, I...I CAME TO SEE YOU...
TAKE A GOOD LOOK WHILE YOU'RE ABLE!
LOOK OUT, HARMS! THEY'RE GONNA KILL YOU!
I'VE STOOD ALL I'M GOIN' TO FROM YOU, YA BRAT!
HEY... DON'T TAKE THINGS SO SERIOUS!
DON'T YOU DARE HURT THAT BOY...
SAYS YOU, SQUEALER!
CRACK
OOH-H-H-H-H
RENDING SMASH ...AN EAR-SPLITTING ROAR... AND...
CRASH
I DIDN'T TAKE TIME TO KNOCK...
UGH!
...BUT I'LL DO IT NOW!
KNOCK-KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?
I WISH I WASN'T!
RIDE 'EM, WADDIE!
WHAM
THE THUNDER OF A GUN SENDS THE MASKED LAWMAN REELING BACKWARD—
WHA...?
SUPPOSE I PICK ON YOU FOR A CHANGE?
THE "VIG" TURNS A COMPLETE BACKWARD SOMERSAULT, AND HIS SPURRED HEELS RAKE DOWN THE SIDE OF THE BOUND STUFF.
CUT IT OUT! I'M YOUR PAL! REMEMBER?

STUNNED BY HIS FALL, THE VIGILANTE SEEMS DOOMED...
THE VIGILANTE IS THROUGH RIDIN' FOR GOOD!
YOU DID CUT IT, VIG... MY ROPES! HERE I COME, SARDI!
I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME FOR THIS PLEASURE!
BOP
COME ON! WE'LL TAKE THE SECRET TUNNELS!
YEAH...LET'S BEAT IT WHILE WE CAN! THIS PAIR IS TOO DANGEROUS!
WAKE UP, VIG! THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
HUH? WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
HERE WE GO, HUNTING COYOTES!
DON'T COMPLIMENT 'EM, VIG! COYOTES AIN'T SO BAD!
THE BEAM OF A HEADLIGHT STABS THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS TWISTING TUNNELS BENEATH OLD CHINATOWN...
THERE THEY GO!
RIGHT YOU ARE!
AND A TORNADO BURSTS AMONG THE FLEEING CROOKS!
GOT 'IM ON THE FLY!
...JUST LIKE SHOOTING BUZZARDS!
SOCKO
BOP

I'VE GOT HIM, STUFF!
I GOTTA HAVE SOME FUN, TOO, DON'T I?
SPLAT

THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR THE GANG OF RENEGADES...
STEP LIVELY!
HEP! HEP!
OH, WOTTA DISGRACE! AN' I NEVER KILLED NOBODY... HARDLY EVER!

AS FOR JERRY HARMS...
NOT DEAD... BUT NEAR IT! WE'LL HAVE TO RUSH HIM TO A HOSPITAL!
HE GOT SHOT SAVING MY LIFE!

WHY NOT LET ME REALLY DIE THIS TIME? I DESERVE IT!
I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET WHAT YOU DESERVE, HARMS!

THE FOLLOWING DAY... IN A HOSPITAL ROOM...
YOU'VE COME TO TAKE ME TO PRISON, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY?
NOT TODAY, ALDERMAN!
QUIET

YOU'RE A HERO! THE VIGILANTE TOLD REPORTERS HOW YOU SACRIFICED YOUR CAREER FOR ONE BOY AND NEARLY GAVE YOUR LIFE FOR ANOTHER! NOW YOU CAN RUN FOR MAYOR!
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING ANOTHER FUNERAL FOR A LONG TIME!
12

A NEW CHANCE! GENTLEMEN, WHATEVER OFFICE I MAY HOLD, MY FIRST JOB WILL ALWAYS BE TO CRUSH CRIME!

Days Later...
GOLLY, THINGS ARE QUIET AROUND HERE LATELY! WHAT'S A GUY GONNA DO FOR EXCITEMENT?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR A WHILE?
VIGILANTE
- BUT THERE ARE MORE RIDING, ROPING, ROLLICKIN' ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ACTION COMICS... see for yourself!